

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1, 7 and 9. Please amend Claims 3 and 8. Please add new Claims 14-17. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. - 2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The billiard cue of claim [[2]] 14 wherein the fibers are carbon fibers in an epoxy resin binder.
4. - 7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The billiard cue of claim [[1]] 14 further comprising:
a lightweight, non-structural material disposed in at least a portion of the bore, the addition of the lightweight, non-structural material not substantially decreasing the stiffness-to-weight ratio of the shaft.
9. (Cancelled)
10. - 13. (Not Entered)
14. (New) A billiard cue comprising:
a shaft having a tip end and an opposed end and formed of a composite material including fibers disposed in a binder, the composite material forming a cylindrical wall having a wall thickness of less than 0.050 inches between opposed first and second ends of a bore, the bore being defined by the cylindrical wall and extending from the tip end toward the second opposed end of the shaft, resulting in the tip end of the shaft having an increased stiffness-to-weight ratio, compared to a solid shaft, that promotes lateral

deflection of the tip end of the shaft during an off-center strike on a cue ball to minimize cue ball deflection.

15. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 14 wherein the bore is substantially hollow over its entire length.
16. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 14 wherein the cylindrical wall is surrounded by an outer layer of a wood material.
17. (New) The billiard cue of Claim 16 wherein the outer layer of wood material is adhesively joined to the cylindrical wall.